

REMARKS

Amendments

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 15, 16 and 27 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 15, 16 and 27 are amended to be in independent form. As a result, claims 11, 18, 25-26 and 29 are cancelled.

Claim 28 is amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 20, 23 and 30 are amended to depend from claim 16. Claims 12 and 19 are amended to depend from claim 27. Thus, all pending dependent claims depend from allowable claims 15, 16 or 27.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §102

By the above amendments, all of the remaining rejected claims are amended to depend from claims 16 and 27, which have already been indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone Counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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